

CLAIMS

What we claim as our invention is:

Claim 1. A self-verifying voting system comprising:

one or more voting stations comprising:

- (a) one or more computer programs which operate in a computer to
 - display general voting instructions, at least one election ballot showing the candidates and issues to be voted on, and directions to the voter for operation of the system;
 - present the election ballot for voting and input of votes by the voter;
 - accept input of the votes from the voter;
 - print out the election ballot according to which the voter voted with the votes of the voter printed thereon, so that the votes of the voter are readable on said election ballot by the voter and readable by a tabulating machine;
 - record the votes in the computer; and
 - compare the votes read by a ballot scanning machine with the votes recorded in the computer;
 - (b) a computer with at least one display device, at least one device to accept voting input from a voter, at least one data storage device, and sufficient memory to provide for the operation of said computer program in which said computer program runs;
 - (c) a printer connected to said computer for printing the election ballot according to which the voter voted;
 - (d) a ballot scanning means for reading the votes on the printed ballot printed according to the election ballot which the voter voted so that the votes shown on the printed ballot are compared by the computer program with the votes recorded in the computer for the voter;
 - (e) means for connecting said ballot scanning means to said computer;
- and
- a means for tabulating the printed ballots generated by said one or more voting stations.

Claim 2. The voting system of Claim 1 wherein the computer is a standard personal computer.

Claim 3. The voting system of Claim 1 wherein the display device is a visual display device.

Claim 4. The voting system of Claim 1 wherein the display device is an auditory display device such as a sound card with speakers or earphones.

Claim 5. The voting system of Claim 1 wherein the computer is a standard personal computer.

Claim 6. The voting system of Claim 1 wherein the computer is a standard personal computer which is connected to a local area network within the voting precinct.

Claim 7. The voting system of Claim 1 wherein the election ballot presented is displayed in increments of each candidate or issue to be decided upon.

Claim 8. The voting system of Claim 1 wherein the computer holds the recorded votes in memory until comparison of the printed ballot as read by the tabulating machine with the votes recorded in memory confirms that such votes are identical.

Claim 9. The voting system of Claim 1 wherein the computer program causes the votes to be recorded on said data storage device of the computer.

Claim 10. The voting system of Claim 1 wherein one of said at least one input devices is a pointing device.

Claim 11. The voting system of Claim 1 wherein one of said at least one input devices is a keyboard.

Claim 12. The voting system of Claim 1 wherein one of said at least one input devices is a touch-screen.

Claim 13. The voting system of Claim 1 wherein one of said at least one of the data storage

devices is a fixed disk.

Claim 14. The voting system of Claim 1 wherein one of said at least one of the data storage devices is removable media.

Claim 15. The voting system of Claim 1 wherein the printer is a laser printer.

Claim 16. The voting system of Claim 1 wherein the computer station, at least one display device, and at least one input device, and the printer are in one machine case.

Claim 17. The voting system of Claim 1 further comprising at least one master tabulating machine for the precinct which reads the election ballot according to which the voter voted with printed indication of the votes of the voter printed thereon for tabulation of the voters votes.

Claim 18. The voting system of Claim 1 wherein the master tabulating machine is connected to a master network for the political subdivision conducting the vote.

Claim 19. The voting system of Claim 1 wherein the ballot scanning machine is equipped with a means for marking a voter verified ballot as validated.

Claim 20. The voting system of Claim 1 wherein the ballot scanning machine is equipped with a means for marking a printed ballot as valid for counting by the means for tabulating the printed ballots.

Claim 21. The voting system of Claim 1 wherein the ballot scanning machine is equipped with a means for marking a voter verified ballot as invalidated.

Claim 22. The voting system of Claim 1 wherein the ballot scanning machine is equipped with a means for marking a printed ballot as invalid for counting by the means for tabulating the printed ballots.

Claim 23. The voting system of Claim 1 wherein the means for tabulating the printed ballots generated by said one or more voting stations will accept only printed ballots which are validated by a ballot scanning machine.

Claim 24. The voting system of Claim 1 further comprising a braille printer for embossing a printed ballot with a braille translation of the election ballot and the votes of the voter so that said printed ballot and the votes of the voter are readable in braille.

Claim 25. A self-verifying voting system comprising:

one or more voting stations comprising:

- (a) one or more computer programs which operate in a computer to
 - display general voting instructions, at least one election ballot showing the candidates and issues to be voted on, and directions to the voter for operation of the system;
 - present the election ballot for voting and input of votes by the voter;
 - accept input of the votes from the voter;
 - print out the election ballot according to which the voter voted with the votes of the voter printed thereon, so that the votes of the voter are readable on said election ballot by the voter and readable by a tabulating machine;
 - record the votes in the computer; and
 - compare the votes read by a ballot scanning machine with the votes recorded in the computer;
- (b) a computer with at least one display device, at least one input device, at least one data storage device, and sufficient memory to provide for the operation of said computer program in which said computer program runs;
- (c) at least one computer terminal with at least one display device, and at least one device to accept voting input from a voter connected to said computer;
- (d) a printer connected to said computer terminal for printing the election ballot according to which the voter voted;
- (e) a ballot scanning means for reading the votes on the printed ballot printed according to the election ballot which the voter voted so that the votes shown on the printed ballot

are compared by the computer program with the votes recorded in the computer for the voter;

(f) means for connecting said ballot scanning means to said computer;

and

a means for tabulating the printed ballots generated by said one or more voting stations.

Claim 26. The voting system of Claim 25 wherein the computer is a standard personal computer.

Claim 27. The voting system of Claim 25 wherein the display device is a visual display device.

Claim 28. The voting system of Claim 25 wherein the display device is an auditory display device such as a sound card with speakers or earphones.

Claim 29. The voting system of Claim 25 wherein the computer is a standard personal computer.

Claim 30. The voting system of Claim 25 wherein the computer is a standard personal computer which is connected to a local area network within the voting precinct.

Claim 31. The voting system of Claim 25 wherein the election ballot presented is displayed in increments of each candidate or issue to be decided upon.

Claim 32. The voting system of Claim 25 wherein the computer holds the recorded votes in memory until comparison of the printed ballot as read by the tabulating machine with the votes recorded in memory confirms that such votes are identical.

Claim 33. The voting system of Claim 25 wherein the computer program causes the votes to be recorded on said data storage device of the computer.

Claim 34. The voting system of Claim 25 wherein one of said at least one input devices is a graphical cursor device.

Claim 35. The voting system of Claim 25 wherein one of said at least one input devices is a keyboard.

Claim 36. The voting system of Claim 25 wherein one of said at least one input devices is a touch-screen.

Claim 37. The voting system of Claim 25 wherein one of said at least one of the data storage devices is a fixed disk.

Claim 38. The voting system of Claim 25 wherein one of said at least one of the data storage devices is removable media.

Claim 39. The voting system of Claim 25 wherein the printer is a laser printer.

Claim 40. The voting system of Claim 25 wherein the computer station, at least one display device, and at least one input device, and the printer are in one machine case.

Claim 41. The voting system of Claim 25 further comprising at least one master tabulating machine for the precinct which reads the election ballot according to which the voter voted with printed indication of the votes of the voter printed thereon for tabulation of the voters votes.

Claim 42. The voting system of Claim 25 wherein the master tabulating machine is connected to a master network for the political subdivision conducting the vote.

Claim 43. The voting system of Claim 25 wherein the ballot scanning machine is equipped with a means for marking a voter verified ballot as validated.

Claim 44. The voting system of Claim 25 wherein the ballot scanning machine is equipped with a means for marking a printed ballot as valid for counting by the means for tabulating the printed ballots.

Claim 45. The voting system of Claim 25 wherein the ballot scanning machine is equipped with a means for marking a voter verified ballot as invalidated.

Claim 46. The voting system of Claim 25 wherein the ballot scanning machine is equipped with a means for marking a printed ballot as invalid for counting by the means for tabulating the printed ballots.

Claim 47. The voting system of Claim 25 wherein the means for tabulating the printed ballots generated by said one or more voting stations will accept only printed ballots which are validated by a ballot scanning machine.

Claim 48. The voting system of Claim 25 further comprising a braille printer for embossing a printed ballot with a braille translation of the election ballot and the votes of the voter so that said printed ballot and the votes of the voter are readable in braille.

Claim 49. A method of voting providing for self-verification of the ballot comprising:

- (a) voting by a voter using a computer voting station programmed to
 - present an election ballot,
 - accept input of votes from the voter according to the election ballot,
 - temporarily store the votes of the voter;
- (b) printing of the votes of the voter from the votes temporarily stored in the computer for the voting station;
- (c) comparison by the voter of the printed votes with the votes temporarily stored in the computer for the voting station;
- (d) decision by the voter as to whether the printed ballot is acceptable or unacceptable;
- (e) input of information as to the acceptability of the printed ballot by the voter; and
- (e) submission of acceptable ballots for tabulation.

Claim 50. The method of voting of Claim 48 further comprising destruction of ballots which are unacceptable.

Claim 51. The method of voting of Claim 48 wherein the printing of the votes of the voter is on a pre-printed election ballot;

Claim 52. The method of voting of Claim 48 wherein the printing of the votes of the voter is concurrent with the printing of the election ballot and on the same paper as the election ballot is printed:

Claim 53. The method of voting of Claim 48 further comprising the tabulation of the votes of the voter with the other votes cast in the voting precinct.

Claim 54. The method of voting of Claim 48 further comprising the final storage of the votes stored in the computer for the voting station for further processing.

Claim 55. The method of voting of Claim 48 further comprising the comparison by the computer for the voting station of the votes of the voter temporarily stored in the computer for the voting station with the votes of the voter shown on the printed ballot which have read to the computer by a ballot scanning machine.